RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

The railways south of the Thames have reduced the tolls taken at the Vauxhall, Kennington, Camberwell, Croydon, and other bars on the Surrey and Sussex roads, by 100*l.* a week, and in consequence of the extension of the South-Western line from Nine Elms to the York-road, a loss of revenue to the extent of 6,000*l.* per annum has been anticipated. No reduction to that amount having been proposed, however, at the recent letting of them by auction, at the Sessions House, Newington, no offer at all was made for them.——While the railways in question are thus swallowing up the turnpike traffic, and in every way profiting by the public to an enormous extent, some of them not only 'cannot afford' a halfpenny candle in transit at night, to a whole train load of low class human traffic, but from Tunbridge Wells, complaint is made, that on fares to the amount of two guineas for four seats, even by express train, a half-penny has been demanded by the company—a sum equal to half a farthing on each seat—for one of their own time-tables! There are surely very close and narrow cuttings on this line, but perhaps the company is accumulating a fund that may enable them to afford to enlighten the darkness of the miscellaneous sojourners in Parliamentary trains, and thus to pay some little respect to the decencies of humble life, even though at the *expense* of the express train traffic.——Complaints, 'south of the Thames,' have ever been rife. A very serious one has just been made against the Brighton management by one of the sufferers in an 'accident,' which has occurred by 'collision of a frightful and terrific nature,' at a junction where it appears to be 'the astounding fact, that two meeting trains are due at nearly the same time and at a point of great danger,' and where the 'imperfect nature of the signals' and 'most culpable neglect of duty' are moreover suspected to have determined the certainty of collision. Seven out of eight passengers in the one carriage in which the complainant sate were bruised, and marks of blood and other injuries were observed in other carriages. The collision, though made light of by the officials, was rough enough to break the tender, demolish a horse-box, and shatter a buffer, a panel, &c.; and at a house to which Mr. Wyon was conducted, "the prevailing feeling with the inmates after a few days' experience, and observation of the manner in which the Lewes trains intersected the down line was, that they ought to be supplied with bandages, &c., and fit up the house as a hospital: such was the dread occasioned by the construction of the junction."——The Great Western authorities have appointed a 'travelling carriage porter,' or guard, or watchman rather, to take his place on an iron chair affixed to the tender of every express train, with his face to the train, 'to keep a steady and vigilant look-out on both sides and along the top of the trains, so that in case of any accident to any of the carriages, or signal from the guard, or other cause, he may communicate with the engine-man and stop the train.' He is also at stations to look to the condition of the axles, wheels, greasings, lamps, couplings, &c. The office is to be held as a reward of merit by a porter selected from the company's corps, with a salary of 25*s.* a week, a pilot-coat, &c.——The works of this line at Swindon are being rapidly extended, and it is expected that when the full complement of hands are at work, they will be enabled to complete a first-class carriage in six days.——On Monday week the electric telegraph was opened between Liverpool and Manchester.——The engineers of the lines that meet at Gainsborough have determined on the site of one station for both lines.——The equinoctial tides in the Trent have damaged the railway-bridge to the amount of 1,000*l.* The piles, which had been driven twelve feet into the bed of the river, have been forced from their positions.——The goods-office at the railway terminus at Redcar, and the promenade-room, newly erected, have been almost totally destroyed by fire. The goods-office, at a cost of 2,000*l.*, was nearly completed.——The foundation-stone of the general railway station at Perth was to be laid on 13th current. The Duke of Athol, as Grand Master of the Freemasons for Scotland, was invited to lay the stone, but in consequence, as it is supposed, of the position of the council as demurrers to the legality or sense of shutting up the Glentilt roads, his grace did not deign to notice the invitation, and the Hon. Fox Maule was to lay the stone.——On the Midland Irish Great Western, recently opened, the second-class carriages have plate-glass windows, cushions, lights, &c. And there are fourth-class carriages which convey passengers at little more than a farthing per mile. The Irish directors are 'gintlemen.'——The works on the St. Petersburgh and Moscow line are being urged forward with extraordinary activity. In addition to peasants and workmen, and by a sort of exemplary inversion of Mr. Wade's proposition to turn 'navvies' into armies, 50,000 soldiers have been turned into 'navvies,' and their immense united strength thus turned to better account than to the idle and continual waste of this description of 'working power,' so prevalent elsewhere, yet so capable every where of assisting great national works, not otherwise to be even dreamt of. The railway junction of Moscow with St. Petersburgh will thus be completed in the course of next autumn, and the emperor, having approved of the route from Warsaw to Moscow, has given orders for the commencement of these works also without delay.

ORIENTATION OF CHURCHES.

Several writers in your columns have lately occupied our attention on orientation of churches. Permit me, in addition, to observe, that though Mr. Donaldson states most correctly that the altar of S. Peter's at Rome *stands* at the *west end* of the cathedral, yet it *faces east*. Four years since I stopped at Rome during the Settimana Santa,—was near the altar on Easter Sunday, when the Pope himself celebrated High Mass,—and, as a matter of course, where the altar *faces the east*, his holiness and all attending celebrants faced the *east* also during the whole service. On entering S. Peter's, only the *back* of the altar is seen. Therefore, in the high seat of orthodoxy (as some would call it), we see that the most solemn services of the church always are observed by the primitive custom of the Christian church in facing the east during the celebration of such services. Need we refer to authority for this natural reverence for that part of the heavens where the star first appeared which announced to a sinning world the nativity of a Saviour? If we need it, St. Augustine, who was a presbyter in the Christian church A.D. 390, witnesseth to the observance as invariable amongst Christians, who says, in Serm. Domini in Monten, c. 5, "*Cum ad orationem stamus, ad orientem convertimur, unde cœlum surgit.*"*

The building churches east and west, burying east and west, and repeating the Creeds east and west, are customs that are venerable for their antiquity, and venerable as indices which, in the first establishment of Christianity, distinguished in worship the *Christian* from the *heathen*, as regarded *external* observances.—Your obedient humble servant,

Necton, Oct. 6, 1847. W. Mason.

* "When we offer up prayer, we turn to the East, whence cometh the light," metaphorical for "Light of the World."

TOPOGRAPHY AND ARCHITECTURE OF WILTSHIRE.

Mr. Britton has worked hard for the Wiltshire Topographical Society, but has not been fully seconded by his brother members, and through that circumstance, perhaps, in great measure, the society has not been joined by the inhabitants of the county, who must surely all feel interested in its success, in such numbers as are required and might have been expected. In his very valuable and interesting "Memoir of John Aubrey," printed by the society in 1845, reference was made to Aubrey's unpublished "History of Wiltshire," of which a copy is in the library of the Royal Society. Mr. Poulett Scrope, M.P., a member of the society, and who has in hand for it a "History of Castle Combe," now nearly completed, proposed that this MS. or the most important portions of it, should be printed by the association. The council concurring with him, Mr. Britton undertook to edit it, and by selecting only those portions really illustrative of Wilts, or comprising information useful or interesting in itself, and adding to these his own notes, has produced a valuable volume. He has done much to raise John Aubrey,—"Magotie-headed" John Aubrey, as Anthony à Wood wrongly terms him,—in the estimation of discriminating critics.

A general review of the history,—which is divided into chapters under various heads, as rivers, stones, worthies, arts, architecture, &c., would be beyond our province; but throughout are interspersed notices topographical and architectural, which will interest many of our readers, and some of these we propose to extract. We may, however, first quote Aubrey's remarks on *sound*, which shew his habits of observation, and that he was in advance of some of his contemporaries.

"As the motion caused by a stone left fall into the water is by circles, so sounds move by spheres in the same manner, which, though obvious enough, I doe not remember to have seen in any booke."

"Why may I not take the libertie to subnect to this discourse of echos some remarks of sounds? The top of one of the niches in the grot in Wilton gardens, as one sings there, doth return the note A *re* lowder, and clearer, but it doth not the like to the eighth of it. The diameter is 22 inches. But the first time I happened on this kind of experiment was when I was a scholar in Oxford, walking and singing under Merton-Colledge gate, which is a Gothique irregular vaulting. I perceived that one certain note could be returned with a lowd humme, which was C. *fa*, *ut*, or D. *sol*, *re*; I doe not now well remember which. I have often observed in quires that at certain notes of the organ the deske would have a tremulation under my hand. So will timber; so will one's hat, though a spongie thing, as one holds it under one's arm at a musique meeting. These accidents doe make me reflect on the brazen or copper Tympana, mentioned by Vitruvius, for the clearer and further conveying the sound of the recitatores and musicians to the auditors. I have from hence induc't to be of opinion that these tympana were made according to such and such proportions, suitable to such and such notes.

Mersennus, or Kircher, sayes, that one may know what quantity of liquor is in the vessel by the sound of it, knowing before the empty note. I have severall times heard great brasse pannes ring by the barking of a hound; and also by the loud voice of a strong man."—(The voice, if very strong and sharp, will crack a drinking glass, adds J. Evelyn.)

Mr. Britton says in a note, "I have been favoured with a confirmation of this note of Evelyn from the personal experience of my old friend, Mr. Brayley, who was present at a party on Ludgate Hill, London, many years ago, when Mr. Broadhurst, the famed public vocalist, by singing a high note, caused a wine glass on the table to break, the bowl being separated from the stem."

Aubrey's work was written, we must remember, between 1656, and 1691.

Aubrey speaks of *Kingston House, Bradford*, as "of the best architecture that was commonly used in King James the First's reigne." His editor remarks, "part of this once fine and interesting mansion still remains, but wofully degraded and mutilated. It is called Kingston House, having been formerly the residence of a Duke of Kingston. It appears to have been built by the same architect as the mansion of Longleat, which was erected between the years 1567 and 1579, and for which, it is believed, John of Padua was employed to make designs."

Building Stones.—"The quarre at Haselbury [near Box] was most eminent for freestone in the western parts, before the discovery of the Portland quarrie, which was but about anno 1600. The church of Portland, which stands by the sea side upon the quarrie (which lies not very deep, *sc.* ten foot), is of Cane stone, from Normandie.(?) Malmesbury Abbey and other Wiltshire religious houses are of Haselbury stone. The old tradition is that St. Adelm, Ablast of Malmesbury, riding over the ground at Haselbury, did throw down his glove, and bad them dig there, and they should find great treasure, meaning the quarre.

At Chilmarke is a very great quarrie of freestone, wherof the religious houses of the south part of Wiltshire and Dorset were built.

To learn how to use PDF Compression and OCR visit ThePaperlessOffice.org